

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-24 remain pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, and 10-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,889,856 (*O'Toole*).

The Examiner asserts that *O'Toole*, at col. 6, line 30 through col. 8, line 20 (and Figures 5 and 6), teaches the features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Among other things, claim 1 calls for employing a common analog-to-digital (A/D) converter for the purposes of processing voice signals and ring trip detection. Specifically, the claim calls for converting a received portion of the ringing signal to a digital signal using the digital-to-analog converter that is used to process voice signals. Further, the claims calls for providing a ring-trip indication in response to the digital signal.

O'Toole at least does not teach using an A/D converter for the purposes of processing voice signals and ring trip detection. One need not look any further than Figure 6 (and the accompanying description) of *O'Toole* to understand this deficiency. Figure 6 shows an A/D converter 44 that processes voice signals. However, *O'Toole* does not teach that this A/D converter converts a portion of the received ringing signal to a digital signal, as called for by claim 1. To the contrary, *O'Toole* describes that the ringing functionality in the line card 58 of *O'Toole* is handled by ring generator 54 and detector 56, and not A/D converter 44. *See O'Toole*, 7:25-28; 21-23 (describing that the ring generator 54 generates a ringing signal and detector 56 detects when the phone handset is lifted off hook). Indeed, *O'Toole* explains that the analog part of the line card 58 ends at the A/D converter 44, after which the signal is converted to digital domain. *Id.* at 7:43-45. Clearly, Figure 6 shows that the elements 54 and 56, which

handle ring trip detection, are before the A/D converter 44, *O'Toole* at least does not teach converting a received portion of the ringing signal to a digital signal using the digital-to-analog converter that is used to process voice signals, as called for by claim 1.

Moreover because, *O'Toole* does not teach converting a received portion of the ringing signal to a digital signal, it also does not teach providing a ring-trip indication in response to the digital signal. In view of the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Furthermore, claims 13-18 and 24 are also allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 7 is also allowable over *O'Toole*. *O'Toole* at least fails to disclose a first circuitry comprising an analog-to-digital converter that is used for processing of voice signals and for DC feed control and a second circuitry that is capable of receiving at least a portion of a ringing signal provided to a subscriber line and providing the portion with ringing signal to the analog-to-digital converter of the first circuitry. For at least this reason, claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 9 and its dependent claims are allowable because *O'Toole* at least does not teach a switch capable of coupling the input and output terminal with the feedback path in response to receiving a control signal.

Claims 19-22 are allowable because *O'Toole* at least fails to teach or suggest coupling the input and the output terminal of the first path in response to receiving the control signal.

In light of the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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